



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### NUMBER OF WOMEN ANGLERS INCREASED BY 300 PERCENT

Women devotees of Izaak Walton in the United States reached a new high in the world of sport fishing during the 1939-40 season by an increase in their numbers of approximately 300 percent over the 1938-39 figure.

More than 220,000 women anglers obtained licenses during this past fishing season, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior reported today after completing the tabulation of statistics supplied by State authorities.

States having a special license for women--Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Utah--report the sale of 190,688 licenses to women.

Massachusetts reports that 17,291 fishing licenses were sold to women and children--the number to women, however, was not shown separately.

Statistics from Mississippi record the sale of 2,645 fishing licenses to families, while Minnesota has record of the purchase of 26,433 licenses to husbands and wives.

The figures of 220,000 licensed women anglers, however, does not indicate the total number of women in the country who are fishing followers. Many States exempt women from license requirements; others do not file separate reports when

men and women are required to obtain the same type of license; thousands of women are salt water enthusiasts and do not have to secure a license--except in California and as nonresidents in Louisiana. Together, these groups represent several million.

"Women" was the first reason advanced by the State of Iowa in explaining an increase of more than \$44,000 in fishing license fees for the past season.

Feminine angling ability is continuing to receive appropriate recognition. During the past decade five States--Colorado, Connecticut, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia--set aside fishing streams for their exclusive use; three States have appointed women game and fish wardens; two women's colleges now offer courses in fly fishing; and twenty-six high schools have co-ed classes in angling, as well as colleges and universities in nine States.

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